



City of Duluth
Building Safety Division
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WATERPROOFING OF RESIDENTIAL BASEMENT WALLS

The 2000 edition of the International Residential Code, which is the effective code in the City of Duluth for all residential construction, states:

R-406.2

" Foundation walls of habitable rooms located below grade shall be waterproofed with membranes extending from the edge of the footing to the finish grade line. The membrane shall consist of 2-ply hot mopped felts, 6 mil polyvinyl chloride, 55-pound roll roofing or equivalent material. The laps in the waterproofing membranes shall be sealed and firmly affixed to the wall. Foundation walls may be ... waterproofed using materials or methods of construction other than covered in this section where approved by the building official."

For purposes of waterproofing requirements, rooms below grade where the ceiling height is 7'-0" or more will be considered habitable.

Upon application for a building permit for residential construction where basement ceiling heights exceed 7' 0", **the means for complying with IRC 406.2 must be indicated and specified on the plans.**

The building official must approve methods not prescriptively described in the code. ***Product information and instructions for application of the product must be submitted in writing to Building Safety for review and approval.***

PERMITS WILL NOT BE APPROVED UNTIL THE WATERPROOFING METHOD HAS BEEN REVIEWED AND APPROVED.

Duane L. Lasley, C.B.O.
Building Official